

AMENDMENT OF FEBRUARY 10, 2006
Serial No. 09/898,655
Page 4 of 9

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS (37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b)(2))

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An improved trailer hitching apparatus comprising:
 - a plurality of connected guide walls [or flanges] which converge forwardly into a [substantially spherical] housing shaped like a portion of a sphere and having a substantially circular opening into said [spherical] housing where said guide walls converge;
 - means attached to said [spherical] housing for mounting said apparatus to a towing vehicle;
 - a double-ring coupler device having two substantially annulus-shaped rings, formed so that one outer ring houses the other inner ring as follows: the outer convex surface of said inner ring has the same curvature shape as the inner concave surface of said outer ring, with said outer ring somewhat overlapping said inner ring to hold them together operationally, allowing said outer ring to rotate freely on any axis about said inner ring;
 - a shaft attached to said outer ring having means to attach said coupler device to a trailer tongue;
 - said [spherical] housing having an inner surface with the same [spherical] curvature as the outer surface of said outer ring so that

AMENDMENT OF FEBRUARY 10, 2006
Serial No. 09/898,655
Page 5 of 9

said outer ring can rotate freely and smoothly about any axis within
said [spherical] housing;
said [spherical] housing having circular surface openings situated
opposite each other and said inner ring of said coupler device having
a circular hole which aligns with said surface openings as means for
insertion of a locking pin device to securely engage said double-ring
coupler device within said [spherical] housing.

AMENDMENT OF FEBRUARY 10, 2006
 Serial No. 09/898,655
 Page 6 of 9

**STATUS OF CLAIM CHANGES AND SUPPORT FOR THE CLAIMS
 (37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c))**

Set forth below, on pages separate from the pages containing the amendments to the claims, Applicant supplies the status (i.e., pending or canceled), as of the date of this amendment, of all patent claims and of all added claims, and an explanation of the support in the disclosure of the patent for the changes made to the claims:

CLAIM	STATUS	SUPPORT
1	Pending	Claim 1 is changed to delete the word "spherical," because the term is inaccurate. As can be seen in FIG. 5, a substantial portion of the "sphere" is missing. Because the term "spherical" is inaccurate, it has been deleted from Claim 1 as not supported by the specification and replaced by the term "shaped like a portion of a sphere."
2	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.
3	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.
4	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.
5	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.

AMENDMENT OF FEBRUARY 10, 2006

Serial No. 09/898,655

Page 7 of 9

6	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.
7	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.
8	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.
9	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.
10	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.
11	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.
12	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.
13	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.
14	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.
15	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.
16	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.
17	Pending	No changes are made to this claim in this amendment.